

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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SOME FACTS ABOUT RURAL PEOPLE
That May Be Related to Library Services and Reading

1. Population in the United States 1950:	Living on farms	15.6%
	Rural nonfarm (under 2,500).....	20.6
	Urban (places 2,500% over)	63.8

2. Population by regions 1940:

Northeast	Rural farm 6.4%	Rural nonfarm 17.0%	Urban 76.6%
South	39.2%	24.1%	36.7%
North Central	23.1%	18.6%	58.3%
West	16.8%	24.7%	58.5%

3. Population in the United States age 60 and over:	1920	7.5%
	1950	12.1%

4. Median years schooling completed by persons age 25 and over, 1940:

Rural farm	7.7 years
Rural nonfarm	8.4 years
Urban	8.7 years

5. Farms in the United States:

With radio (1945)	72.8%
With electricity (1950).....	86.3%
Within 1/2 mile of all-weather road (1945)	72.4%

6. Counties in the United States out of 3,070 total - in 1950:

Without a town over 2,500 population	Number 1,076	35%
" " " " 5,000 "	1,695	55%
With a town over 5,000 population	299	10%
	<u>3,070</u>	<u>100%</u>

7. About 800 counties have only county-wide library service, and about 600 are without any kind of public library service within their boundaries. There are more than 400 bookmobiles - in 38 States.

8. Average expenditures for family consumption 1941 (BLS Bulletin 822)

	Rural farm	Rural nonfarm	Urban
Food	\$ 601	\$ 513	\$ 729
Automobile	104	152	223
Medical care	62	71	107
Recreation	27	36	101
Tobacco	17	26	48
READING	8	11	23

9. Number of general magazines circulated per 100 people in 1942:

Rural farm	34	Counties under 25% rural	44
Rural nonfarm and urban ...	42	Counties 75% or more rural ...	14



